

SECRET
NOFORN CONTINUED CONTROL

CS CI 3250

TO: Office of Central Reference/ER
Attention:

FROM: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: WESCH, Ludwig (Professor/Physicist)

1. Reference is made to the telephone request of
OCR/ER, of 7 October 1955, for information concerning Professor
Ludwig WESCH. The files of this office reflect the following information
concerning an individual who is probably identifiable with Subject.

2. Reports from a predecessor organization reflect the following
information concerning Ludwig WESCH, herewith presented in summarized
form. Professor Dr. Ludwig WESCH was born 14 April 1908 according to
one report and 14 April 1909 according to another. He was appointed
Untersturmfuhrer (SS 2nd. Lieutenant) on 20 April 1935 and was promoted
to Obersturmfuhrer (SS 1st. Lieutenant) on 30 January 1936. In 1938
WESCH was assigned to the Sicherheitsdienst (SD-Security Service of the
State and Party). A report dated 11 October 1944 indicated that WESCH
had attained the rank of Hauptsturmfuhrer (SS Captain). Several reports
stated that WESCH was assigned Nazi Party No. 245,488 and SS No. 47448.
Various reports also revealed that he was awarded the Nazi Party decoration
known as the Totenkopf Ring (Death's Head Ring). WESCH was married and
reportedly lived in Heidelberg, Germany, in January 1940. Information
contained in a report dated 11 May 1945 indicated that Professor Dr.
Ludwig WESCH was Director of the Institute for International Postal and
World News, External Institute of Heidelberg University; and Lecturer
at the Philipp Lenard Institute. According to Source, WESCH, an SD
member, was interested in high school matters (sic), news matter (sic),
and public opinions and sentiments, especially in academic circles.
Reportedly, Professor WESCH was a specialist in news matter and Source
believed that the SD considered him an expert on such matters as the
installation of broadcasting stations.

3. Information concerning more recent activities of a Professor
Ludwig WESCH is contained in a report of this office dated 15 June
1955. According to this report, Dr. WESCH has been affiliated since
1954 with Deutsches Magnesit A.G., a subsidiary of Oesterreichisch-
Amerikanische Magnesit A.G. of Radenthein, Austria. The latter company
is largely owned by General Refractories of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
The firm Deutsches Magnesit A.G. was underwriting Dr. WESCH's research
on infra-red and radar camouflage paint. According to Source, Professor
WESCH persuaded Deutsches Magnesit A.G. to rent (in January 1955) Villa
Borsch in Heidelberg, Germany, and establish a Forschungsinstitut where
WESCH and other associates were perfecting his development. Reportedly,
Dr. WESCH was considered to be the "turn-coat" type, always in search of
the "best deal". WESCH worked with Becoline (Rhine-land - Saar) and the
French after World War II and helped develop some of the new infra-red
equipment used by the French in Indo-China.

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